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## Original Articles.

### номсторатну.

BY WM. C. DOANE, M.D., SYRACUSE.

More than twenty-five years ago I became acquainted with the Homeopathic law of cure, and after years of study, thought and multiplied experiments with medicines administered with what then seemed to be a new therapeutic idea, I became satisfied that the doctrine of "similia" was of great practical utility, and I believed that by adopting it as a general system of practice I could do more good than by adhering exclusively to the theory I had been taught and to which I had given years of hard study and toil.

My professional brethren were aroused by my declarations and incensed by my course, and in my opinion they were illiberal, unfair, narrow-minded and unjust; they seemed to cling to the venerable idea that every new thing was only an innovation upon their rights and like those of the olden time, with one accord they were ready to demand the freedom of Barabbas and in their delusive fury to shout, "away with him." They, like other bigots who fancy they are wise above all men, can only be eminent in obstinacy and stupidity; they assumed then, as men of a single idea do now, that their society was the embodiment of Science, in fact Science itself, and that they were the chosen guides commissioned by Divine Providence to direct a benighted world to the realms of light and learning.

Not desiring to keep up a conflict, I parted company with my old friends and determined to think and act for myself and to discharge my duty to the sick according to the best of my courage to think for himself should not enter

and at the bar of my own conscience, instead of a society that I could but believe was organized to trammel thought, circumscribe duty, and defend a dogma.

I could not then, nor can I now, see any duty more incumbent than is forced upon us at the bed-side of suffering and in the presence of sorrow, where the only question that the true man should ever ask is, "Can this suffering be mitigated, or this life saved, and smiles made to chase tears away?" and in the discharge of his duty he should, if needs be, forget all sects, lay aside all creeds, ignore all theory, and fearlessly step beyond the "dead lines," willing and glad to see dogmas perish provided a life can be saved.

The seaman who would wait to array himself in the uniform of the navy, might lose the only chance to rescue his ship from the waves: the fastidious imbecile who would stop in his flaming home to make his toilet, might allow his family to perish amid the devouring elements; and the obtuse and unlearned physician who stops to read a book at the sick-bed, or search among a million doubtful symptoms for a keynote, or unravel some fine-spun speculative theory to shelter a dogma, may not only lose his patient, but he certainly degrades the profession, and the finger of scorn is pointed at all who stand with him in the ranks.

After so many years of trial, I am satisfied that I have done more to benefit those entrusted to my care than I could have accomplished by remaining in the company I started with, and tamely submitting to the contemptible jurisdiction of a society demanding the right to think for me. He who has not the energy and ability, and meet the responsibility before God our profession; such men may often be excellent counterfeits of genius and ability to palm off on the stupid, but they cannot pass for the genuine among experts, they may be denominated a sort of intellectual merchandise or professional shoddy, that looks well enough, but it will not wear.

After so many years, I feel confident that I have proven, in instances far too numerous to mention, that the law of cure sanctioned by the Homœopathic School is destined, if rightly directed, to become one of the great boons bequeathed to a suffering world.

I am sorry, for the sake of science, humanity and common sense, that so many in our ranks have lost sight of the grand principle that underlies the superstructure of our art to follow a visionary philosophy and thus subject our school to the just ridicule of popular opinion. I say just, for there is no man able to demonstrate in any way, or by any method, that there exists any medicinal power whatever in the socalled attenuated medicines used by many of our enthusiastic and zealous friends who desire to enforce their views upon all who come within the precincts of their organization. Men entertaining extreme views are never prudent leaders; no government can be secure under their control, no matter what may be their political tenets; no church is safe in such men's hands, and to those only who practice "moderation in all things," can the sacred interests of Zion herself be entrusted.

If the fate of our profession is left exclusively in charge of the cool, calculating and arrogant stoic, we need never look for advancement in the art, for only the "fool is wise in his own conceit;" if, on the other hand, we surrender to the capricious whims of the visionary idealist we are certain of shipwreck and disaster, and when too late we can exclaim with one of old, "the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me." Such extreme characters should always be provided with a brake, for, like heat and cold, without restraint both will lead to certain death.

None, save the Omnipotent who created a world in the midst of chaos, can conceive the smallness of the medicinal atom that would exist in the sixtieth dilution, and yet we have cure disease and do various wonderful things with the utmost certainty by the use of attenuations as high as the sixty or the hundred thousand, and yet the amount of a given drug so diluted would be infinitely less than the smallest conceivable atom diffused throughout ten worlds as large as ours; the relation that such doses sustain to the animal economy is so utterly incomprehensible, and so far transcends all our senses, that no person, in my opinion, can attribute any condition or symptom that may arise while the supposed drug is being administered as the result of medicinal action any more than it can be charged to the changes of the moon, the moving of the planets, the flight of birds, the passing of a meteor, or the glimmer of a star.

He who can point out the effects of the onethousandth, or even the one-hundredth dilution of a drug, can, with equal certainty, determine how much the measureless deep will be agitated by adding to its mighty billows a single glittering dew drop; such a man need not despair, for he could easily calculate how much the light and heat of the sun is augmented by each spark that flits from the anvil of the smith; such a man, so learned, could demonstrate exactly how much power could be imparted to a hurricane by the breath of a single rose; the world of wisdom, philosophy and reason laughs at such consummate folly that puts even fancy herself to flight, and no wonder, for the whole theory is as far removed from human thought and conception as the heavens from the earth, the infinite from the finite, or eternity from

The advocates of the exalted theory affirm that each dilution and consequent agitation develops new properties and imparts new power to the drug; and with these declarations of palpable nonsense bearing the sanction of authority. we stand before the world of thought and intelligence as powerless as the hideous images in corn-fields, that only frighten or delude the silly and unsophisticated birds that seek the place for plunder; the premises occupied by these gentlemen are not tenable, and cannot endure the test of reason, for it cannot be proven by any system of logic or induction, that the manipulation of drugs will multiply their potency as is claimed. For example, suppose that men who appear sane upon almost every other a given amount of drug will produce vomiting; subject ready to declare that they absolutely you may take that quantity and agitate it

until doomsday, and you can neither shake more vomit into it nor can you shake any of the vomit out of it; again, agitate one drop of any given solution with a hundred of alcohol and it may be that you have a hundred times as much medicinal power in the alcohol as you have in the single drop with which you started. Now, if agitation adds power and potency, the alcohol has a hundred chances to be increased in power to one chance of the remedy, and increasing too with each dilution. Now dilute a hundred times and shake a hundred times with each dilution, that is only ten million shakes, and if you live long enough to accomplish the feat, tell me, if the theory of potentization be true, how much more powerful will the alcohol have become by all your tedious years of shaking, or explain how you have managed to shake everything bad out of the alcohol and everything good into the minute atom with which you started in your infancy.

Before the sublime ridiculousness of such a theory, the transmutation of metals, astrology, witcheraft, amulets, incantations, charms and spiritualism, all dwindle into the most perfect insignificance, and the stories of the Arabian Nights cease to be a matter of doubt.

In my judgment this is not Homœopathy, it is not medicine, it is not philosophy, it is not reason, and with such views published to the world we have no right to expect, that men endowed with minds will cling for life to a reed so attenuated, or rely upon a system of medicine so entirely spiritual and ethereal that it cannot, in the nature of things, be adapted to the inhabitants of this sphere, who drag around with them ponderable physical organizations.

It is not the invisible, intangible, immaterial soul, but the real material body that becomes sick and dies, it is to that body we are called to administer; it is the house we live in that is damaged and needs repairs, and he who would repair it with such means as I have named would be apt to throw aside boards, nails, saws and hammers, and mend his home, shattered by the storms and shivered by the elements, with rhetoric or dogmatic fancy.

With you I lament our ignorance of disease and its treatment; but I do look forward with hope, that the day will come when the effects of drugs will be more definitely understood, and the law upon which they act more clearly comprehended.

I am glad that our State Society has planted the new school upon a more certain basis, and I hope I may live to see the day when education, merit and manhood will destroy all the "pathies," uproot all the "isms," and merge into one, our schools, colleges and societies, having but one object and one aim, that of mitigating human suffering and prolonging human life by any and all the means that a wise and inscrutable Providence has vouchsafed to man.

I regret exceedingly that any society can be found that is not willing to occupy the advanced ground taken by many of our most able and distinguished men, and sanctioned by the highest authority of the State; but prefers to look with distrust and indignation upon those who refuse to accept as science and philosophy a visionary idealism.

For myself, I choose to avoid all controversy, and avert all schism, and I am determined in the future as in the past, to do my own thinking in my own way, and never, for the sake of a dogma, school, or sect, to hesitate one moment to make use of any means within my power to benefit the sick or carry comfort to the afflicted.

I hold that the man is a craven coward who will allow any organization to stand between him and what he considers his duty, and furthermore that the society which would perpetrate the outrage, wrongs both subject and actor, and is therefore a double robber and merits only swift and certain destruction. I know not what may be others' views, but to me bondage is a hateful thing; an owner I despise. He only is happy who is free and unfettered, his country is the world, his friends are mankind, "his prince is his art, and his law is his conscience and his choice."

Variola.—The emplastrum vigo cum mercurio, (and the blue ointment in a less degree), if applied during the papular or vesicular stage, will abort the eruption and disease. During the pustular stage, it greatly relieves the inflammation; it always ameliorates the symptoms and stops the pitting.

### STRANGLED IN THE HOUSE OF ITS FRIENDS.

BY WM. WRIGHT, M. D.

(Read before the Medical Staff of the Brooklyn E. D. Homœopathic Dispensary Association,

Nov. 12, 1878.

The English word science is derived from the Latin "scio," which signifies "I know." And while knowledge is an indispensable prerequisite to "science," it does not follow that the mere possession of unclassified truths, be they ever so numerous, will make the possessor a scientist. To entitle one to this appellation, he must be in possession of a sufficient number of facts in relation to some one, or all the particular branches of study, as shall enable him to so classify and arrange what he does know, that he may thereby be enabled to-deduce such other truths or facts as belong thereto, but not before known. "Science," then, must be defined to be "a knowledge of facts systematically arranged"-the object and end of which is that, by a proper use of known truths, we may be enabled with certainty to deduce the hitherto unknown.

Hence I repeat that a "knowledge of facts" in regard to any particular branch of human knowledge-when "systematically arranged" may be called a "science"-as the science of chemistry, of astronomy, of electricity, &c.; the great object and end of which is that, from the known we may advance to, and the more certainly discover, the unknown. It follows, then, as a natural corollary, that all science must be founded upon, and governed by, law; for "facts" or "results" are necessarily the products of law. That which may or may not happen, cannot well be claimed as the result of law; but that which comes from the application of pre-existing forces whose resulting product is a consequence of their application, must be accepted always as "the law of their being."

Now this truth is no where more beautifully illustrated in nature than in that branch of human knowledge which we denominate chemistry. Here we find that the various elements which make up that universe of matter subject to its influence are not only controlled in the form which they shall assume, but the very atoms which go to make up their several com-

binations are all told, and never vary in their predetermined propositions. So that a salt may as certainly be known by the form of its crystals, as by an analysis of its combination or composition. This is also true in natural philosophy. Not only may we determine beforehand the exact quantity of matter or power, which will be required to balance another given quantity, by the difference in the length of the two arms of the "beam," but we may readily calculate the force necessary to be put forth to raise a given weight, by the number of pullies given us to work with.

In relation, then, to chemistry, natural philosophy-measurably so in geology and in astronomy-we have discovered the law! But how is it in pathology and therapeutics? 'Tis true, that, during the last half century, great progress has been made in these two most important branches of human knowledge. either of them yet attained to the dignity of a "science"? Have we discovered the law upon which either is founded; or even made such an approximation thereto, that all learned men are agreed, (even for the time being) as to their exact nature and governing cause? In regard to the first, it may be said that there is considerable harmony among physicians who are the class most directly interested in its study. Yet all must admit that the field has not yet been utterly exhausted, but that there probably remains much to be discovered.

But how is it in regard to the latter? The art of curing diseases, or trying to cure them, had its origin very early in the history of our world. But it must be admitted that our conceptions, both of medicine and disease, were at first very crude and unphilosophical. A few incantations, manipulations, decoctions or beverages, constituted the entire routine of practice, with little or no accurate knowledge of the nature and power of the drugs used, or of the diseases which they essayed to cure; so that it may well be said of the doctors of that early day, that "they were men who poured medicine of which they knew little or nothing, into a system of which they knew still less." But harsh as this verdict may seem, as against a class of men, who, as a general rule, have always been honest and devoted to their profession, yet how much better verdict will truth permit us to ren-

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the days of Hippocrates down to the bethat in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and the composite nature and characteristics of drugs, immense strides have been made during the past century. But is it so in regard to therapeutics? The utter want of uniformity, the wide and conflicting views, of the various schools of medicine of our day, show that, in this respect, we are all yet at sea; or if any of us think that we have discovered the "law of cure," we are so much at variance among ourselves, as greatly to weaken the force of our claim, and to reduce us to the border land of empiricism.

The wonderful discoveries of Hahnemann, confirmed by a host of his immediate followers, gave rise to the hope that light was about to break in upon the practice of medicine; and such progress was being made, both as to our knowledge of disease and the proper application of remedies, as to give us a well grounded hope, that the long misunderstood, and shamefully abused thing called "medicine" was about to be elevated to the dignity of a science. And under this impression-perhaps, in view of recent occurrences, I ought to say, under this "pleasing delusion"-we all went to work and established "National Institutes," "State and County Medical Societies," secured the passage of laws recognizing us as "legal practitioners," and organized Colleges for the education of physicians in our "law of cure," and erected hospitals and dispensaries to publicly test the truths of that system which we advocated. For a few years all went on swimmingly. The provings of drugs and the result of our application of this law of cure, both in our private practice and public institutions, had confirmed, as we thought, the truths of our theory, and demonstrated that homeopathy was indeed founded upon "immutable laws," and therefore was entitled to be ranked among the exact sciences. The confident manner in which we proclaimed these great truths, and the seeming harmony which prevailed throughout our ranks All that relates to medicine not failed to command the respect, if it had not

they claim suddenly to have discovered that ginning of the nineteenth century? 'Tis true the "law of cure," which had hitherto been "our glory and our shield," is just "no law at all;" and while homoeopathy is declared by these advanced pupils to be "the best general guide in the selection of remedies," yet, nevertheless, they believe that that which they choose to designate as "the result of experience" is still better: and whatever shall acquire the reputation of "being good in the treatment of disease," is entitled to our profoundest consideration, law or no law. Well, what is all this but an abandonment of the high vantage ground which we previously occupied, as the advocates of a system of medical practice founded upon fixed and clearly developed principles, and reducing us to the lower plane of pure eclecticism? And yet this is just what the grave and reverend Homœopathic Medical Society of the great State of New York has just done. And who can wonder at the mighty exultation with which our allopathic enemies greeted this humbling and mortifying confession-a confession by which our representative body had proclaimed it and themselves imposters, if not f-. But, gentlemen, because we, as a school of medicine, have been betrayed, because our chosen representatives have seen fit, "in their fury and their folly," to trail our beautiful banner in the dust, must we necessarily surrender? I think not! The law of cure discovered by the immortal Hahnemann is just as true to-day, and as universal in its application, as it was when the New York Homoopathic Medical Society first organized, and resolved that "similia similibus curantur was the only true and reliable law of cure," and when our leading and best physicians. declared that the result of their investigation and practice warranted them in asserting that it was not only true, but that, when we fail of promptly and effectually curing "all curable diseases," we fail either from our ignorance of "the law," or from want of knowledge of the true remedy.

Homœopathy is yet in infancy. -backed up by a general conformity in our been discovered! The proving of our drugs practice with our avowed "law of cure,"-had has not always been committed to wise or judicious, discriminating or competent heads. Men secured the conversion of our allopathic friends. who had maggets in their brain, and women who But it appears that "new light" has broken in certainly had large vacuums in their heads, upon a portion of our professed friends, and persons of feeble bodies, weak intellects and

strong imaginations, have sometimes been selected to prove the pathogenetic power of drugs, and to show us what are the actions of these drugs upon the healthy, living fibre of our racewhen, in fact, the "prover" may not have had such a fibre either in his or her head, body or brain? And this is the entertainment to which we have too often been invited. Is it strange, then, that even our best read physicians have sometimes been disappointed, and have found that many of these so-called "provings" were as baseless and untrustworthy as were the ability and capacity, to say nothing of the integrity, of the prover to distinguish between the fancies of a diseased imagination and a true drug symptom! If such be the fact among those best read and most discriminating, what have we a right the experience of the indolent and the careless student? But, because our drugs sometimes fail us, is that a good reason why we should suddenwe not, when properly instructed or enlightened, that it is true in all, many of us fully believe. What, then, is the course which wisdom would point out? Why, most certainly, to pursue our best lights which the masters, (not the pupils,) which we have espoused.

But that there are grave and formidable obstacles in our path, I am ready to admit, and our progress is impeded and beset with difficulties which it may be hard to overcome, but which, nevertheless, I believe, will yet be overcome, as surely as the progress and attainments of those who shall come after us shall greatly exceed our own.

These obstacles and difficulties I can only hint at, leaving it to a future occasion for a more full elaboration. Chiefly among these obstacles is the "want of a sound and perspicuous medical have all the errors of the past, and the silly va-

on theory and practice, but that most of those works are of a weak and trashy nature-"Domestic Practices," catchpenny affairs, which, while they hardly aspire to the dignity of systematic or scientific work, do in fact descend to the very lowest standard of commonplace composition. And, in relation to Materia Medica, or "drug provings"-the very basis upon which our whole system is founded-what better are they than mere eclecticisms? If I understand what homoeopathy is, it is "a system of medicine founded upon the known action of drugs upon the healthy living subject." So that, when we have learned just exactly what a given unadulterated drug will do, exactly what symptoms it will produce-in short, its full pathogenetic power-then we know exactly when and where to suppose has been and will still continue to be to use it. But how is it with Jahr, the oldest and the very best work of that kind that we have? Prepared at so early a day, in the dim twilight of our new development of medical ly turn back and say that "Homoeopathy is a practice, it necessarily embraced much that was humbug," or even assume that the law of false, intermingled with that which might be similars is only "a limited and partial law," true. Provers were required to note all sympadapted, perhaps, to some cases, but not to all? toms, without being left to judge whether those This is not honorable, neither is it creditable. If symptoms were the emanation of an excited imwe have found "the law" true in any case, may agination, or the direct product of the drug. And the work of sifting, or eliminating the "chaff find it true in all? That it is true in many cases from the wheat," was very properly left to the we can all testify by our own experience; and results of future provings, and the tests of practice. But where and when has that system of elimination been brought in or even initiated? In a recent work, "the greatest work of the investigation, when baffled or embarrassed, with age," as some of our fraternity have chosen to renewed energy and zeal, bringing to our aid the call it, (and, if bulk is the standard of greatness, I am willing to admit the claim,) what can give us; and we shall scarcely fail of doing do we find? Why, the boast of its author in credit to ourselves and honoring that cause his very prospectus was, that "he was about to publish a work which should embrace everything that had ever been written upon the subject,"and I am very much inclined to think he has! Did not its author know that it was about time that something was settled, determined, fixed, known, with regard to the medicinal power of some articles of medicine or drug-so that every student or practitioner of medicine should not be compelled to make anew his own provings, and apply his own tests; or, if relying upon the books, be compelled to sift a thousand bushels of chaff to get a single grain of wheat? Not only literature." Not that there is any want of works porings of semi-lunatic provers, been copied in

this work, but, when possible, greatly added to! Of what use, therefore, is such a work in the hands of a busy practitioner? If he must "read, mark, and inwardly digest" fifty to largely in excess. a hundred pages-I was about to say of "foolscap"-to eliminate a single truth, what is to become of his sick and suffering patients in the meantime? Taking this work as my guide, I am not at liberty to assume that anything is settled, even in regard to such old and common drugs as Aconite or Belladonna; for the very fact of the republication of all the trash that has ever been written upon these drugs utterly precludes the idea that anything is yet settled.

But the primary and legitimate object of a homoopathic Materia Medica, if I understand it, is to record the pathogenesis of drugs, by which, under our law of cure, we may infer or determine beforehand their medical or curative powers, and know just where and how to apply them. But these works are so burdened down, or perhaps I should say so "lumbered up," not only with "provings" that have no foundation in fact-expressed in all manner of forms, and so oft repeated that a student is in danger of losing himself, instead of getting any light, in the labyrinth which the author throws around him-but they are filled up with matter that does not even purport to be a "proving." And, as if not satisfied with giving us "bushels of chaff for every grain of wheat," in their record of "provings," one half and sometimes even a much larger proportion of each essay is devoted to a detail of symptoms which the drug is said to be "good for," without ever having developed any corresponding pathogenetic powers, and then so blurring up the page with "symbols," and intermixing these discordant indications, that he must be a wise man, and possess a clearer head than most men have, if, when he has finished the pages, he can remember which be pathogenetic and which be "good for the patient," according to the experience of our grandmothers!

As said, then, we need a purer, a better, a more scientific Materia Medica-one which shall present to us the known, determined, and well-ascertained results of provings, or, in other words, the pathogenesis, pure and unadulterated, of each drug. As the man said when he sat down to his dinner, "give me my and then I can mix or not, to suit myself." Hitherto we have had too much mixing, and I greatly fear that the quantity of hair has been

Do I claim too much, then, when I say that we are in more danger of dying from a surfeit of weak or trashy medical writings than from too strongly concentrated or too highly seasoned medical truths?

Our medical journals should cease filling their columns with petty personal quarrels, marvellous provings, and still more marvellous cures-cures which the experience of no other practitioner can, or probably ever will, verifyand seek to exemplify "the law" as promulgated by Hahnemann, and interpreted by the ablest and most impartial of the master minds of our school. When this elimination shall have been accomplished; the rubbish of the past consigned to the regions of Limbo, or the paradise of fools, and we have a Materia Medica which shall give us, in a clear, concise and intelligible form, the true, ascertained, and fully demonstrated, unadulterated pathogenesis of our drugs-then students may begin to study, and physicians to advance in their practice, with some degree of pleasure, and with a well-founded hope of securing even more satisfactory results in the future than in the past. Let this be the high and noble end at which all our best efforts shall be directed, remembering that

> " Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime. And, departing, leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time;-

Footprints that perhaps another Sailing o'er life's solemn main, A forlorn and shipwrecked brother, Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing, With a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait."

## REFLEX SOURCES OF INFIRMITIES OF THE LIMBS.

BY GEO. H. TAYLOR, M.D., NEW YORK.

The remedial efficacy of transmitted power in the form of motion is perhaps even more conspicuous in certain affections of the limbs, in which the resources of both surgery and medicine meet with conparative failure. 'The cases referred butter on one plate, and the hair upon another, to comprise a considerable proportion of disabled extremities, more common among women, in which the spinal centres are clearly the seat of difficulty. The primary expression of morbid nervous irritability is reflex muscular contraction; uncontrollable muscular contraction or spasm. This constant pulling of muscles presses together the opposing articulating surfaces of the joints, (the hip and the knee,) with considerable force; while the immobility or want of gliding motion consequent on the pressure causes a tendency to inflammation, or, at least, effusion, and also a persistence of reflex action.

Some progress in the knowledge of the true pathology of these cases was made when it was found that traction or counter-extension of the limb, so conducted as to remove the joint-pressure, was beneficial; and to-day the great variety of mechanical devices intended for this purpose appears to be the end of endeavor of modern sur-

gery, for these cases.

This treatment, of course, quite ignores the real seat of the disease. It is equally oblivious of the fact that counter-extension by any means whatever is utterly unnecessary and uncalled for for the relief of muscular contraction, however severe. This morbid process cannot exist after removal of its cause, to which counter-extension has not the least relevancy. Recoveries under such treatment are entirely due to the kindly influences of time, and whatever improved hygeine the alarmed friends, and physician may provide.

I will illustrate the method and results of removing the cause of muscular spasm arising from reflex nervous action by reference to several cases showing different stages and phases of

the complaint.

(1). Mrs. F., 34 years old, married 14 years, childless. When I first saw her, had been confined to her room and nearly to her bed for about one year. She was very thin in flesh, and bore the aspect of much suffering, having nearly constant pain in the pelvis, and down the left leg. which was so shrunken and contracted as to be useless; and she was consequently unable to walk without assistance. She was utterly unable to straighten the limb, and it would not yield to any moderate extensile force. Her treatment had been mainly directed to the uterus, which though small was retroverted and the source of constant annoyance. I will here say that local do; and but little capacity for response to the law attentions, in all forms, do not in the least ex- of cure as propounded by Homosopathists.

pedite the cure in cases similar to this. This is impossible till the nerve centres, on which contraction and also neuralgic pain depend, are restored.

(2). Master S., 12 years old, was brought to me by an esteemed physician, who, I am glad to say,. saw through the case-but not so clearly any medicinal way of recovery. He appeared to have hip-joint disease. The left leg was drawn up, the thigh measured one inch less than the other, the joint protruded, the knee was much swollen and flexed, suffered greatly from night pains, and very sensitive to the touch. Two crutches werenecessary for locomotion. The boy was anxious,

sleepless and haggard.

(3). Miss B., about 40, had an affection of the right side causing the leg to draw up, so that she wore a cork sole 34 inches thick. This had lasted 12 years. During the three last years shehad been unable to raise her arm to her head. Had suffered much from pain in the affected. parts; her history, however, afforded no distinct. clue to joint-affection; though quite rigid, the joints were susceptible of limited movement without much pain. The contractions were continuous and nearly uniform.

(4). Mrs. Davis, 39, had a paralytic stroke affecting the right side, of ten years standing. The right arm was flexed at the elbow and nearly useless; and only the toe of the right foot could touch the floor in walking, the heel being strongly drawn up by the unintermitting contraction of

the muscles of the calf.

These and similar cases represent stages in the results from reflex action induced by causes. unequivocally spinal. Those who apply surgical, instrumental and orthopædic remedies, appear in treating these cases to derive no advantage from a knowledge of the fact, or of the causes of reflex stimulation, being satisfied toprescribe for what they see, and leave what is. rationally apparent, to take care of itself. The effects are regarded as the essential disease;; and thus the integrity of important members. is fruitlessly and needlessly jeopardized.

In the above mentioned cases, there were probably no adhesions of articulating surfaces; nor were there the usually less manageable adhesions of interlacing fibres of areolar tissue to contend with; nothing in reality for the surgeon toIn fact, three of the cases had received only Homœopathic treatment, up to the time I saw them.

This class of cases do yield however quite readily, and almost infallibly, to the processes for transmitting force, as explained in my previous article. Recovery in these cases is due not merely to increased consumption of oxygen, or to divulsion, or to development, or improved circulation, s there shown, but to transfer of nutritive activity from spinal centres to other especially to muscular parts.

Case No. 1. was about three months in recovering, having to contend with a weakly constitution. The leg straightened (without pulling), and the pelvic difficulties disappeared, long before the general strength was satisfactorily restored. She has since become a mother. In No. 2, the night pains, the soreness and swelling, rapidly subsided, and in three weeks he discarded crutches, but continued treatment two months, to regain the normal size of the affected leg. No. 3 was able to raise the affected arm to her head in three weeks, and in nine weeks she disused the cork sole, and walked without the least limp.

Although No. 4 was suffering from incurable paralysis from cerebral lesion, yet in one week the heel reached the floor, and she continued to walk without the least impediment from the contraction, and the affected arm was rendered capable of moderate use in one month. It is not presumed that a continuation of the treatment would have wholly removed the paralysis.

The medical profession appears to allow the therapeutic principles involved in the cure of cases like the foregoing to enjoy an almost unbroken slumber. The easier, empirical, superficial methods are plainly in the ascendant. Pain is cured by obliterating sensation and the consciousness of pain. Reflex action is cured by diminishing the power to act at all. Contractions (a vital manifestion), are removed, not by removing the stimulus to contract, but by crude mechanical stretching. Quickly-removable affections are perpetuated indefinitely, through neglect of facts and principles patent even to the non-professional.

. Now, if there be anything demonstrable in in nutritive activity. physiology and therapeutics, it is the principle of transformation of power within the vital do- vehicles of power, acting complementary to

main. Not only is that associated with the successive atoms which course through our bodies, yielded up to functional and even volitional uses of the individual, but the same assumes diverse forms, according to the organs which such matters serve. All functions-our very existence as represented by the system,depend on this use, transference and transformation of power. This is accomplished through nutritive activity. Power is conveyed wherever it is used and needed, associated with nutritive matter; the two are distinct and separable at any point. The form depends on the medium of expression. It is yielded with equal readiness in the realm of the dynamic, the sensorial, the emotional, or the intellect. The evidences in support of this proposition may hereafter be more fully given; it suffices here to state the outcome. The individual chooses when, how, where, the expenditures and consequent nutrition shall occur. Why may not the physician so direct, as to reinforce embarrassed parts? The one is physiological, the other therapeutic. Whether in the form of dynamic energy, pleasurable sensations or emotions, or of pain, power is an educt from the material world, so long as the individual is associated therewith. Pain, being sensation, is a normal product of nerve centres. Reflex stimulation bears a similar relation. These are abnormal, when in relative excess;--this denotes distrained manifestation of power and consequent diminished nutritive activity at other points, or rather, at large. This is the inference from the fact that when nutritive activity is suddenly aroused in other vehicles, channels or instruments of power, as the muscles, the pain and reflex action are as suddenly abolished. So too, if muscular activity be gradually increased while the volitions are in abeyance, the capacity of muscles as vehicles of power is rendered permanently superior to that of nerve centres, and all pain and reflex action are permanently cured. These plain statements challenge examination.

To restate, for clearness, the principles on which the efficacy of transmitted power de-

All kinds of corporeal power have their source

The muscles and the nerves are the great

each other, sustained by nutritive action within their substances.

Pain and reflex manifestations are also sustained by nutrition, but are evidences of maldistribution of nutritive activity. In health, correct distribution is maintained by complementary use. We will and we act, thus maintaining a sort of equation of power.

Redistribution of nutrition and power is secured by exciting nutritive activity in all parts suffering from its need; notably, the muscles.

Their comparative massiveness and superior facility of change of substance, gives them complete remedial control over morbid nervous action, whether such action results in pain or reflex muscular manifestations of power.

Transmitted power is a legitimate excitant of local and general nutritive activity. It merges with, and become undistinguishable from, ordinary physiological processes. Increase at selected points is equivalent to diminution and relief at oppressed points.

### TARANTULA CUBENSIS. (Araña Peluda, Hairy Spider.)

BY JOSE J. NAVARRO, M.D., SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

The Tarantula Cubensis, (Araña Peluda, hairy spider) belongs to the same family, genus and species, as the Tarantula Hispana. As this one is already so well known to the profession, I omit the description of the one under consideration. Besides, in 1876, I sent a specimen of the hairy spider to our loved and lamented Carroll Dunham; and those who feel interested sufficiently in the matter, may probably gratify their scientific curiosity through the kindness of Dr. Dunham's family.

Although apparently alike, these spiders differ widely in their pathogenetical and therapeutical effects. The Tarantula Hispana, native of South America, and introduced in our Materia Medica by the well known Dr. Nunez of Madrid, (Spain) is a nervous remedy, acting deeply and powerfully on the cerebro-spinal system; and many cases of Chorea, Hysteria etc., have been cured by this precious agent.

The Tarantula Cubensis, on the other hand, seems to be a toxemic remedy acting directly on the blood and being in this way an analogue of Crotalus, Apis, Arsenicum, etc.

The bite of this spider, if instantly attended

the local application of a lotion made with water and the Tincture of Ledum Palustre. But if the virus is already absorbed and carried into the circulation, it develops the following symptoms.—The bite itself is painless, so much so that persons bitten in the night are not sensible of it until the next day, when they discover an inflamed pimple surrounded by a scarlet areola; from the pimple towards some other point in the body, a red erysipelatous line is seen, marking the course followed by the spider over the skin after biting-so corrosive is the nature of this virus. The pimple swells, gradually increasing in size, the erysipelatous inflamed areola spreads wider and wider, chills, followed by intense burning fever, generally supervene on the second or third day, accompanied by great thirst, anxiety, restlessness, headache, delirium, copious perspiration and retention of urine. The pimple in the mean time grows larger and becomes a hard, large and exceedingly painful abscess, ending by mortification of the integuments over it, and having several small openings discharging a thick sanious matter containing pieces of mortified cellular tissue, fasciæ and tendons; the openings by growing, run into each other, forming large cavities. At this period, the fever takes the intermittent type, with evening paroxysms accompanied by diarrhea and great prostration.

This does not take place in every case of the spider's bite, for much depends on the constitution of the patient and the treatment adopted; but still, I have known of two cases in delicate children where the bite proved fatal. The majority of cases recover after a period of from three to six weeks. I once attended a black man of about thirty years of age bitten by this spider; I was called during the second stage; he then had diarrhea, intermittent fever and prostration; the opening left by the emptying of the abscess in the left gluteal region was large enough to admit my fist. He recovered in two weeks, under Arsenicum.

With these facts before me, or rather, in view of these provings, I decided to try the remedy in my practice. By introducing into a glass jar full of pure alcohol one of these spiders alive, I prepared the mother tincture according to Dr. Hering's method. As by the to, is easily deprived of its malignant effects by effects of anger the spider threw off the poison,

the alcohol changed from a colorless liquid to light yellow. From this tincture I prepared the 6th decimal dilution, and this is the preparation I have used where indicated. From the cases in my experience I will cite the following in proof of the never failing law, Similia Similibus Curantur.

Don M. B. set 72, good constitution, called me to treat him for an abscess in the back of his neck, whose burning, excruciating pain had completely banished sleep for the last six or seven nights.

There was fever with great thirst and prostration; on examination, I found it to be a regular anthrax with all the accompanying train of symptoms. Rpe Tarantula cub., one dose every two hours; after the 2nd dose the pain was greatly relieved, and that very night the patient was able to sleep through the whole night. Under the use of this remedy the patient recovered without using any other, except Silicea to aid cicatrization.

Dona A. R. aet. 51, past the climacteric, thin spare body, delicate constitution, had an anthrax in the interscapular region, with severe burning pain; unable to sleep from the excessive pain, Tarant. cub. in a few days made a complete cure.

I. L., colored man, act. 26, had a large hard abscess in the right thigh, exceedingly painful and inflamed, no fever, the glands in the groin swollen, indurated and painful. B Tarant. cub., every 3 hours. After the second dose the pain was completely relieved, and 6 days after the abscess and swollen glands had disappeared by resolution.

M. C., a little girl of 9 years, was taken ill with tonsilitis. Besides several local applications and domestic remedies, had taken Mercur. Biniod., Bell., Acon. and other Homœopathic remedies prescribed by an amateur. When called to see her, I found high fever, delirium, red face, and both tonsils so swollen that suffocation was feared. A few doses of Tarant. Cub. dispersed the swelling and accompanying symptoms in a few hours.

Dona F. L. de B., act. 84, delicate constitution, had a large anthrax in the back of the neck; had been treated for two weeks by three physicians of the old school, with local applications, first emollient and then caustic. At last the knife was resorted to, with stimulants internally, and binations with very marked benefit.

Hydrate of Chloral and Morphine to relieve the burning agonizing pain-all to no effect, for the patient grew worse daily. Upon examination, I discovered that the whole of the muscular and cellular tissues were destroyed, from the neck to the waist and from shoulder to shoulder, leaving a cavity about six inches long and four wide, at the bottom of which several of the dorsal vertebræ were plainly visible; there was also infiltration of the surrounding tissues, and the patient had quotidian fever and diarrhea. After the 4th dose of Tarant. Cub. the pain was completely relieved. On the third day the line of demarcation was formed, and two days afterward the surrounding mortified tissues came off. With the continuance of this remedy and an occasional dose of Silicea, the patient was entirely cured in seven weeks from my first call.

These are only a few of the many cases in which Tarant. Cub., has given complete satisfaction in my practice. I have used it with success in syphilitic buboes, painful boils and all kinds of abscesses where pain or inflammation predominates. Its power to relieve pain in these cases is wonderful, acting we might say as an anodyne. The observations of one man, however, cannot establish the reputation of a remedy; and for this reason I bring these facts and confirmatory clinical cases before the profession for investigation. Perhaps by instituting regular provings with this substance, new symptoms might be developed, and the real value of the remedy definitely ascertained. With this object in view, I send, together with this communication, some of the mother tincture of Tarantula Cubensis, which I place at your disposal. And I shall be happy to afford any farther information if desired, and to supply with the tincture any member of the profession who is desirous to investigate the virtue of this remedy. (Dr. Alfred K. Hills will furnish the tincture to those who desire it.)

(Read before the Hom, Med, Soc. of N. Y. County.)

MALTINE, - This elegant preparation claims to contain all the nutritive principles of barley, wheat and oats, in an easily digested form. Combining pleasantly with the various nerve and blood nutrients and tonics it is rapidly taking rank among our best pharmaceutical preparations. We have used it in its various com-

## Clinia.

NERVE STRETCHING. - A SURGICAL CLINIC AT WARD'S ISLAND HOM. HOSPITAL.

HELD BY PROF. WM. TOD HELMUTH, DEC. 14, 1878.

(Reported by Malcolm Leal.)

GENTLEMEN:-The next case I shall show you is the woman on whom I operated before you some time ago, for adenoma of the breast. She is weak-this is one of her bad days-you see the surface is healing nicely; there is a central spot of healthy granulations, and around this you can observe the cicatricial tissue forming; note, if you please, the bluish white appearance of this tissue, and then endeavor to recall the method of its formation, as, described to you in my lecture on cicatrization, The entire breast had to be amputated, and no flaps were left; the healing, therefore, has been by granulation entirely. The peculiarity of this scartissue that you see here, is as you know, to contract, and she will, no doubt, exhibit certain unpleasant symptoms arising from that condition. Of course, in such an extensive removal of integument, many terminals of peripheral nerves were divided. She complains now of drawing pains, appearing to center in the sore, and she will soon have numbness and difficulty in using the arm of that side, owing in part to the contractions of the inodular tissue. These symptoms will, however, gradually disappear as the nerves become replaced. You will remember the blue lines on her gums to which I called your attention as showing a scorbutic tendency. She had been living almost exclusively on salt meat, and her condition at the time of operation was decidedly below par. She, therefore, did not progress rapidly after the operation, but now is in a fair way to recover. She has had Arsen, 3d and 30th, and Merc. 3d and 30th, and at one time Conium. you feel now?" Answer.-"Pretty well."

STRETCHING THE GREAT SCIATIC NERVE.

The first operation I have for you to-day, gentlemen, is for a case of extreme rarety Do you hear that cry? it is from the patient who is being etherized, and if I mistake not, it for she has been taking largely of narcotics for months, often as much as 60 to 80 minims of Magendie's solution, hypodermically, per day. The case is very obscure, and has not as yet been carefully diagnosed.

(Dr. Stearns here read the history of the case, as follows:

The patient had been in various hospitals, and had undergone a great deal of treatment. She had constant and excruciating pain in the hip and knee, dating from a fall which she received some years since. Extension had been used, ointments and cataplasms, and all kinds of medicine given, while she was in the service of Dr. Bradford in May last. Dr. Helmuth had aspirated her in several places to ascertain if there was any deep seated purulent accumu-None was found. The peripheral hyperæsthesia was so great that a touch on the sole of the foot gave exquisite pain.)

"You will observe, gentlemen, that she has great muscular contraction with excruciating pain in the knee and in the hip. She was treated in Roosevelt Hospital by various methods, and finally came here many months ago. A great many physicians of ability have examined her and treated her, and yet she is no better.

Under these circumstances, I think it advisable and right to cut down on the sciatic nerve and remove it from the surrounding tissues, stretch and replace it.

Nerve stretching, as yet, has not received its appropriate place in surgical history; at first, no doubt, it will be lauded to the skies, and every variety of nervous disease be subjected to it. Chassaignac recommended the écraseur for the amputation of limbs-as did Dittel with the elastic ligature. At one time, cod liver oil was employed for every conceivable malady under the sun. Carbolic acid has been the rage; it was the fashion for all diseases supposed to originate from bacteria; but, finally, these assumed their appropriate places in the treatment of disease, and so it will be with this operation.

It is only since 1872 that nerve stretching for neuralgia, epilepsy and tetanus has been brought before the profession. Paul Vogt has given the matter great attention, after having, cured a case of traumatic tetanus by exposing the brachial plexus at the anterior border of the will be a very difficult matter to anæsthetize her, trapezius and vigorously pulling the nerves centrifugally and centripetally. The patient had violent opisthotonos and clonic spasms, and was cured immediately.

Billroth stretched the sciatic (the operation which I am about to perform before you to-day) for spasm of the leg and Von Nusbaum for intense neuralgia. Mr. Callender, of St Bartholmew's Hospital, who is now in this country, also has given this matter some attention.

In the United States I am not aware of any cases being reported, save by Dr. Cox. If I remember right, these cases were published in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, some months since. The operations were performed by Dr. Thos. G. Morton, of the Pennsylvania Hospital; in one case—that of stretching the ulnar nerve for traumatic neuralgia—the operation was successful; in the other, in which the sciatic was stretched for neuralgia of the leg and foot, the result was not satisfactory.

A great deal appears to depend upon the after treatment of these cases, and the careful attention to minutise. The first portion of the operation consists in laying bare the nerve; the second, in stretching it; the third, in replacing it and reclosing the wound.

A peculiarity in this case is the absence of constitutional symptoms, which, indeed, is one of the most curious phenomena noticed in nervous affections—you will be surprised to see her looking so well. (The patient etherized is brought in on a stretcher). Here she is. How shall we proceed? We must stretch the sciatic—how will we find it?

The nerve passes out of the pelvis under the tic foramen, and descends nearly midway between the pyriformis muscle, through the great sacroischia—the great trochanter and the tuber ischii, being about six millimetres nearer the latter than the former—dividing into the popliteal nerves usually at the lower part of the thigh, but sometimes as high up as the pyriformis muscle—and lying beneath the gluteus maximus, pyriformis and biceps.

I think the easiest way to approach the nerve, is to get inside the semi-membranosus and follow the margin of it. The semi-tendinosus and long head of the biceps, you know, are given off at the tuber ischii by a common tendon, the biceps crossing the nerve, in its course, to be inserted into the head of the fibula; while the semi-tendinosus follows nearly the line of the

nerve, inside of it, to be inserted into the head of the tibia, the fascia of the popliteus and condyle of femur.

Now, the muscle is more flat just below the trochanter, and is easily reached.

We will now mark out the land, thus (drawing on the blackboard) draw a line transversely from the tuber ischii to the greater trochanter; then from the middle of this line, about six millimetres nearer the tuber ischii, a second line is drawn longitudinally on the posterior surface of the thigh to the popliteal space. You will find the line will follow very nearly the course that is taken by the great sciatic nerve. To make these measurements more exact, I take a tape and place an end on the trochanter of the femur, and draw the other across the tuber ischii. Now I measure from the point mentioned nearly half way between the tuber ischii to the trochanter, draw a line to the centre of the popliteal space, so-and then in that line I shall make my incision.

The patient being well under the ether, I begin by cutting through the integument and fat, making an incision four and a half inches in length, so—put in a sponge.

Always take plenty of time in performing such an operation,

I go down now through the adipose tissue until I reach the fascise covering the muscles. You see that I desire to go somewhat lower on the thigh, and extend the incision accordingly. I am now clearly upon the fascia of the thigh, and holding it tense with a pair of forceps, I di-vide it in the direction of the flesh wound. I now lay aside all instruments, and wipe away any clots which may be in the wound, and with my fingers, I gently separate the muscles. I know the semi-membranosus by its tendon, and pushing it aside, I feel and see the nerve without difficulty. Separating it from its adhesions, I put my finger beneath it, and draw it forcibly upward, until I feel the heel of the patient begin to rise up. I then again sponge the wound and gently pack in the nerve, for it is too long to fit into its old position. It is surprising how much a nerve can stand in the way of stretching-it is almost strong enough to lift the person. Now, we will close up the wound, and the operation is finished. You will hear the result as soon as possible.

Dr. Helmuth has since reported to the class the success of the operation. Its complete history and details will be published.

The Clinic was concluded with the intravenous injection of milk.

## The Homeopathic Times.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

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"A regular medical education furnishes the only presumptive evidence of professional abilities and acquirements, and OUGHT to be the ONLY ACKNOWLEDGED BIGHT of an individual to the exercise and honors of his profession."—Code of Medical Ethics, Amer. Med. Ass., Art. Iv., Sec. 1.

#### MEDICAL ETHICS.

In the days of the Roman Empire, "I am a Roman citizen" was a shield and passport throughout the world. In other days the physician was supposed to belong to a learned profession and the holder of the title to be of necessity a gentleman. He required no code of medical ethics save that Golden Rule, which, in some form or other, God gave to the world through all his inspired leaders, from Hermes to Christ, . to guide him in his conduct toward his brethren in the profession, and the public. "I am a physician" was his proud shield and passport. The public respected him because he respected himself and never forgot or neglected his duty to others. The art of medicine was then a learned profession, held only by gentlemen, not a trade for any sordid trickster who might choose it as an avenue to wealth and personal influence. It is a sad fact, that notwithstanding during the past few years science has made such rapid advances, our profession seems to have absorbed from the warring, selfish elements of human life some of its worst features; its selfish greed, its truckling for power, its cringing, fawning subserviency meet us at every step. The spirit of harmony, the unselfish, noble rivalry for good seem to be overshadowed by rank weeds which render necessary codes of ethics to preserve order in a learned profession.

When what should be societies for mutual benefit and scientific discussion are used to gratify personal pique and crush out opposing influences; when they are turned into arenas of personal strife, where the combatants are cheered on with clapping of hands and stamping of feet, and their words drowned with hisses or the cry of pot-house politicians, "put him out, put him out," it is quite time that the conservative members of our profession, men who have respect for a learned and noble calling, should take a firm stand against this rising tide of evil, which threatens to hold us up to the ridicule and contempt of the world.

When we can conform to the Golden Rule in our daily practice, we shall obey the highest code it is possible for us to have. Until then we must take the profession as it is, not as it ought to be, and compel its members, as a matter of self-interest, to treat each other with ordinary decency and respect.

#### DECLARATIONS OF PRINCIPLES.

The Homoopathic world seems to be bent upon declarations of principles. We would suggest to these framers of such unnecessary epistles, generally so dogmatic, theoretical and exacting in their nature, that we have a "Code of Ethics" which has been adopted and is a part of the By-Laws of most medical societies of our school, which covers sufficiently the knotty differences which must always continue to exist between members of a profession like ours.

Art. IV. Sec. I. "A complete medical education, of which the diploma of a medical college is the formal voucher, furnishes the only presumptive evidence of professional acquirements and abilities."

"Médicine is a progressive science. Its history shows that what is heresy in one century may, and probably will be orthodoxy in the next. No greater misfortune can befall the medical profession than the action of an influential association or academy establishing a creed or standard of orthodoxy or "regularity." It will be fatal to freedom and progress in opinion and practice. On the other hand, nothing will stimulate the healthy growth of the profession, both in scientific strength and in the honorable estimation of the public, like the universal and sincere adoption of a platform which shall recognize and guarantee:

- A truly fraternal good-will and fellowship among all who devote themselves to the care of the sick.
- 2. A thorough and complete knowledge, however obtained, of all the direct and collateral branches of medical science,—as it exists in all sects and schools of medicine,—as the essential qualification of a physician.
- 3. Perfect freedom of opinion and practice, as the unquestionable prerogative of the practitioner, who is the sole judge of what is the best mode of treatment in each case of sickness entrusted to his care."

The above is all the "creed" that should be required by any true and unprejudiced physician.

Science knows no prejudice and recognizes no hobbies, and the less we have of exacting dogmatism, the better it will be for all concerned.

We would also suggest to those who have the subject of revising the expressions used by the State Society in its resolution of last year, that perhaps the reiteration of the above sentiments,—already its own by adoption—might meet the wishes of the majority better than the proposed resolution of this year, reported by them, and printed with the minutes of the society for future consideration. Here we have the sentiments of the former resolution—which has been so strongly objected to by some—in more concise, elegant and understandable language, and it is already a part of Our By-Laws.

#### GOLDEN WORDS.

Chancellor Crosby, of the New York University, closed his address to the graduating class

of 1879 with the following comment. If itcould form a part of the daily life of every medical man, our profession and the world would be the gainers:

"You have two workshops-your office, and your patient's bedside. Be very watchful of yourself when you are not at one or the other. Don't get the reputation of a doctor who got his full growth the day he was graduated. Keep abreast of medical progress. Take a good medical journal, even if you have to eat your bread without butter to pay the subscription. Seize every opportunity to increase your knowledge of remarkable cases, so that you will rise above the books, and have a judgment and power of your own. In short, be a telegraph in your quick perception and a steam engine in your activity, and you will laugh at and leap over every obstacle to success. You have entered on a course where laziness is a disgrace and would make you ashamed of yourself.

My sixth thought is also Latin: "Obsta principiis," which good old Matthew Henry translates by an English proverb, "Nip mischief in the bud." Begin your medical career with a careful avoidance or abandonment of bad habits, especially such as would harm your standing in the esteem and regard of your patients. A man whose clothes are saturated with stale tobacco smoke is not an agreeable visitor in a sick room. Nor is it reviving to a delicate organization to have stimulants applied through the physician's breath. Neatness in personal apparel and delicacy in manipulation may seem tobe small matters, but I can assure you that their neglect may have a weighty influence towards failure.

Yours is a profession and not a trade. Don't forget that. The object of a trade is to make money. The object of a profession is to bless mankind. The moment the making of money becomes the main idea of a professional man, he ought to have his uniform taken off and be drummed out of camp. Let the thought that you are the world's benefactors sharpen your eyes in diagnosis and steady your hand in amputation. Let it come like a soothing breeze when you are flushed with the heat of disappointment. Let it draw the curtain of forgetfulness over that lost fee. Let it be butter to your bread and sauce to your pudding. Let it hide from your eyes the patch on your boots,

and enable you afoot to meet with superb serenity the luxurious merchant riding by in his cushioned chariot. He worked for that and won it. He deserves it. You worked for something better; and from your high position chariots and livery, with dog-carts and their occupants thrown in, are too small to be seen. Remember, too, that you will have to mingle in close and confidential relations with men-men whose souls, even though their bodies came from monkeys, are going to live forever. For I cannot believe that any of you are so stupid as to confound mind and matter. Those men, I tell you, to whom you are going to administer quinine and ipecae, are going to live forever, and so are you. So the acquaintance will be apt to be a long one. Wonldn't it be a good idea to make it a happy one? Wouldn't it be well to add to your transparent truthfulness in your dealings with these men, a constant recognition of your and their relation to Him who formed these curious bodies, and gave us the wonderful power to study them? Nay, would you not in that recognition find the true incentive and support for truthfulness to others? It would be sad indeed if friendships and growing knowledge ceased with this short and brittle life of the body. Let, then, the higher life beyond this cheer you on in your successful way with its promise of still purer friendships and grander researches into truth; and all along your path, amid the changes of cloud and sunshine, up-hill and down-hill, let your hand confidingly rest in the offered hand of God."

## Bibliographical.

A System of Surgery, 3D Edition, By William Tod Helmuth, M. D., Professor of Surgery in the N. Y. Homœopathic Medical College, Pp. 1000. Illustrated with 568 wood-cuts. Published by Boericke & Tafel, New York. From the pen of our friend Dr. Helmuth we have already had two works on this subject. We say two works, for, although the book under consideration purports to be a third edition of one published in 1865, the amount of new matter contained in it is so great, and the chapters, even of the edition published in 1873, have undergone so much revision (being, indeed, almost entirely re-written), that one fails at first sight to identi- work, where he says: 'The question of malig-

fy the present volume as bearing any relation to those already well known to the profession. We have in this work a condensed compendium of almost all that is known in practical surgery, written in a terse, forcible, though flowing style, the author evidently having the rare gift of saying a great deal in a few words, and of saying these few words in a graceful, easy manner. Almost every subject is illustrated with cases from the Doctor's own practice; nor has he neglected to put before us the great advantage of homœopathic treatment in surgical diseases. The work is in every respect up to the requirement of the times,

The chapters on inflammation, repair, suppuration, ichorrhæmia, traumatic and inflammatory fevers, etc., are entirely new. We would call special attention to the chapters on inflammation and repair, in which the various theories are exhaustively discussed. The author, though refraining from accepting any of the theories as being positively demonstrated, evidently inclines to belief in the recent migration theory.

He draws a line of demarcation between traumatic and inflammatory fevers, and says that in the latter the fever is occasioned by the heat of the blood at the focus of the inflammation, as well as throughout the entire body, while in the former it is caused by the toxic effects produced by the absorption of morbific elements, either by the veins or lymphatics. He also draws a line between phlebitis and pyæmia, and takes this view: In phlebitis it was formerly assumed that the veins became inflamed from the absorption of morbid material which was carried into the system, whereas, he says: "true phlebitis (in itself a very rare occurrence) is really an inflammation of one or more of the coats of these vessels." He illustrates the fact that the absorption of pure pus is not followed by pyæmia, by quoting the experiments of Mr. Spence and others. In this chapter two valuable thermographs are introduced (pp. 64 and 65), showing the temperature during the course of traumatic fever and pyæmia.

The Doctor does not seem to place very much reliance on the microscope in the primary diagnosis of tumors, and warns his readers not to be led away by new histological appearances. At page 90 he says: "I am, therefore, disposed to agree with Mr. Savage in the third edition of his

nancy is not to be determined histologically,' and further, when he writes: 'In regard to the question of malignancy, attended or not by recurrens in loco eodem alique, the experienced surgeon decides without much reference to histology, and is generally right, where the pure histologist is generally wrong.' The greatest benignity and the greatest malignancy may be united in the sarcomata group. I can assure you that two sarcomata of the most similar histological qualities may differ entirely in course. (Billroth). Of all the classifications of tumors which have been attempted, I think that of Virchow, while it covers the greatest variety of species and shows a vast amount of experience and research, is the most unsatisfactory to the student, on account of the uncertainty of its expressions and its necessarily numerous discrepancies. For instance, his understanding of the terms 'homology' and 'heterology.' According to recent investigators of the English and French schools, these terms have a definite and distinctive meaning-the former applying to those tumors which in their structure bear a strong resemblance to the normal tissues; the latter, 'heterologous,' being applied to those growths which are unlike any of these tissues; of course it is understood healthy and fully formed structures. Thus Holmes writes in his classification; 'There is one class in which the substance of the tumo has an exact anatomical resemblance to some tissue of the body (homologous tumors). . . . There is another class of tumors which do not present any resemblance to the normal tissues, and which are therefore described as heterologous.' Sir James Paget coincides in this view. He says: 'The intimate structure of malignant tumors is usually not like that of any of the fully developed natural parts of the body. . . . Innocent tumors have not a structure widely different from that of a natural tissue.'

"It is, however, unnecessary to multiply quotations. In Virchow's arrangement these terms possess merely a relative meaning, and refer to the character of the tissue from which the growth springs. It will be seen how confusing and uncertain this must be, when a tumor presenting the same structural elements may be homologous in one part of the body, and heterologous in another. Besides this, even Virchow himself is in doubt whether in the majority of instances his perityphlitic abscess, which contains the report

cancerous growths are not heterologous."

The chapter on the varied methods of dressing wounds, which was written by Dr. John H. Thompson, contains a description of Lister's antiseptic method, the Bordeaux dressing, the alcohol dressing, the open method, etc.

The history of syphilis deserves a word or two of special commendation, showing as it does an amount of careful research and study, and a thorough familiarity with the different authorities on the subject.

At page 407 is a chapter on diseases of the lymphatics. We regret that the Doctor did not write a little more extensively on this most neglected subject; however, we are thankful for the little he has given us, and hope if this valuable work reaches the fourth edition, as no doubt it will, that he will remember our hint.

Under the heading "Subcutaneous Osteotomy," mention is made of Heitzman's experiment with lactic acid on dogs and cats. In every case rachitis and osteo-malacia were produced by the action of the drug. The probable value of the acid as a homoopathic remedy in these conditions is therefore evident.

The value of flexion, lifting, and abduction in what the author calls automatic reduction of most of the dislocations of the hip, is shown; and the author points out that the relations between the Y ligament in front and the obturator internus behind are the main obstacles to be overcome in the reduction of hip luxations.

Mason's method for the treatment of cleft palate is noted, and recommended to be tried before resort is had to the operation of staphylorraphy.

A few pages further on, we have a good article on gangrenous pharyngitis and post-pharyngeal abscess. Dr. Helmuth deprecates the use of the aspirator in the ordinary forms of acute pleuritis, but recommends it in the more chronic varieties, the results in such being much more encouraging, as proved by the statistics of Goodheart and Fox.

He gives it as his opinion that the aspirator needle may be introduced into any part of the thorax. In this he differs from the majority of surgical authorities, who lay down the rule that the proper place to aspirate is the seventh intercostal space.

Another new chapter we notice, is that on

of several very interesting cases. Other articles which deserve special mention are those on extrophy of the bladder, extirpation of the rectum and the different methods of performing ovariotomy.

We must take exception to the Doctor's remarks on the use of nitrous oxide gas as an ansesthetic (page 978). We have for several years been in the habit of using nitrous oxide in preference to ether, and with complete satisfaction. By Johnson's method 100 gallons of the gas are condensed into liquid form (a quantity amply sufficient for a protracted surgical operation). This quantity is put into a quart flask, and may be carried under the arm of the operator's assistant to the bedside of the patient, with the same ease that he carries a bottle of ether. The fact of the gas being condensed into a liquid form is a guarantee of its purity.\* It does not require it, or an elaborate apparatus to administer it, and is, in our opinion, the safest, most speedy, and most convenient anæsthetic we possess. The patient goes under its influence in a few seconds, and recovers consciousness as soon as the mouthpiece is removed. There is no inclination to vomit afterwards, a matter of great moment in many operations. Nor is there, when administered in this form, any bad after-effect that we are aware of.

The volume closes with a few words on local anæsthesia; the various spray producers are discussed, their points of usefulness pointed out, or their defects shown.

Taken altogether, we have no book in our literature that we are more proud of.

One word of commendation to the publishers is naturally drawn from us as we compare this handsome, clearly printed, neatly bound volume with the last edition. The difference is so palpable that there is no necessity of making further comparison.

B.

THE GUIDING SYMPTOMS OF OUR MATERIA MED-ICA; BY C. HERING, M.D., vol. I. The Am. Hom. Pub. Society, Phila, 1879; pp. 506.

Here we have the first volume of the life-work of a master-hand, with reasonable assurance that the work will be finished in ten volumes. The preface says:

"This work will especially commend itself to the busy practitioner, because it is an attempt to give our Materia Medica in such a form as will make the selection of a curative medicine in any given case as easy as possible."

\* \* It is "principally a collection of cured symptoms." The arrangement is much after the style adopted in the Condensed Materia Medica by the same author, with the addition of four marks of distinction, as to the relative value of symptoms. A most valuable aid. The volume before us contains Abies nigra to

Armoracea.

The second volume, now in the hands of the printer, will begin with Arnica. XA complete repertory will follow the issue of the last

a guarantee of its purity.\* It does not require (as Dr. H. suggests) a baggage wagon to carry to know, that the issue of the other volumes and is, in our opinion, the safest, most speedy, and most convenient anæsthetic we possess. The patient goes under its influence in a few beconds, and recovers consciousness as soon as the mouthpiece is removed. There is no inclination to vomit afterwards, a matter of great moment in many operations. Nor is there, when administered in this form, any bad after-effect that we are aware of.

We are assured by those who are in a position to know, that the issue of the other volumes will not be jeopardized by the uncertainty of human life, as the MSS. is in such a condition that the work can proceed by the hands of one who is perfectly familiar—from long and constant schooling—with the plans and methods of the author, so that no one need hesitate to subscribe for the work on account of any misgivalent to know, that the issue of the other volumes will not be jeopardized by the uncertainty of human life, as the MSS. is in such a condition that the work can proceed by the hands of one who is perfectly familiar—from long and constant schooling—with the plans and methods of the author, so that no one need hesitate to subscribe for the work on account of any misgivalent to the constant in a position to know, that the issue of the other volumes will not be jeopardized by the uncertainty of human life, as the MSS. is in such a condition who is perfectly familiar—from long and constant schooling—with the plans and methods of the author, so that no one need hesitate to subscribe for the work on account of any misgivalent in a surface of the constant in a position to know, that the issue of the other volumes.

X vere Hom. Jeings pleted. The author says: "While Allen, in submission to British fashion-rulers, has tried his best to omit all cured symptoms, the Guiding Symptoms, as a true complementum to his work, have collected all the cured symptoms-at least as many as the editors have been able to bring together. They followed not only the American fashion-rulers, but also the predominating views of the greater number of American practitioners." \* \* "Let all who use the books and make a cure at once write down the facts, and send them to one of our journals, or to the editor of the Guiding Symptoms, and in a few years the result will decide which way is preferable."

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DI-RECTORS OF THE AMERICAN HOMOSOPATHIC PUBLISHING SOCIETY TO THE STOCKHOLDERS.

Contains Constitution, By-Laws, Report of the Treasurer, and other matter interesting to

<sup>\*</sup>Gas containing even a very small percentage of impurities cannot be condensed into liquid form.

the stockholders. The Society is in a flourishing condition. All communications respecting the business of the Society may be addressed to C. Mohr, M.D., Secretary, 555 N. 16th St., Phila., but orders for stock or books, and the remittances for the same, may be sent direct to Messrs. J. M. Stoddart & Co., 727 Chestnut St., Phila.

THE HOMEOPATHIC THERAPEUTICS OF UTERINE AND VAGINAL DISCHARGES; BY W. EGGERT, M.D. Boericke & Tafel; pp. 543.

A most exhaustive treatise, admirably arranged, covering all that is known of therapeutics in this important department.

HEADACHES AND THEIR CONCOMITANT SYMPTOMS, WITH A COMPLETE AND CONCISE REPER-TORY-ANALYSIS; BY JOHN C. KING, M.D., CHICAGO. W.A.Chatterton & Co.; pp.300.

This little book arranged after the plan of "Bell on Diarrhœa," includes nearly 200 different remedies in its category.

The work is well done, and will prove a valuable aid in the selection of the remedy in these sometimes difficult cases.

"Rest and Pain;" a Course of Lectures on the Influence of Mechanical and Physiological Rest in the Treatment of Accidents and Surgical Diseases, and the Diagnostic Value of Pain; by John Hilton, F.R.S., F.R.C.S. Edited by W.H. A. Jacobson, F.R,C.S. Wm. Wood & Co., 1879.

This is the first volume to appear in "Wood's Library of Standard Medical Authors," and is an admirable beginning of a praiseworthy effort to give the profession the best medical literature at a small expense. The publishers propose to issue one volume a month during the year, at a subscription price of twelve dollars in advance, thus giving a book each month for one dollar that has previously cost several times that amount.

The edition is to be printed in good type, and serviceably bound in cloth, and the first volume is all that can be desired as regards both these points. The edition will succeed—must succeed—for it meets a want that has long been felt and remained unsatisfied; it places standard dollars a year, commencing with January.

medical works within the reach of all.—We do not propose to review the volume at present under consideration, to any extent, as it has already passed through one edition in England.

The object of these lectures is to "establish a principle," and to show that "Rest is a most important therapeutic agent in the cure of accidents and surgical diseases;"—to bring out and impress the fact, "That every pain has its distinct and pregnant signification, if we will but carefully search for it."—Dr. Hilton devotes eighteen lectures to this subject, and in them treats of Rest as the chief of what he terms "Natural Therapeutics," a curative agent of the first magnitude;—the relations of Rest to Growth, Rest to Repair, the significance of Pain as indicative of disease, and its value as an aid to accurate diagnosis.

These lectures are of particular value to the profession from the fact that they are not written from the stand-point of a theorist, but from that of an intelligent observer of facts. Few men have been privileged with more extended opportunities for clinical observation and study than Dr. Hilton; and his lectures are crowded with records of cases, with their full and accurate histories. The reader has the clinical evidence laid before him for every proposition with full anatomical and physiological explanation of phenomena presented.

INDEX MEDICUS. A MONTHLY CLASSIFIED RECORD OF THE CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE OF THE WORLD, COMPILED UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF DR. JOHN S. BILLINGS,
SURGEON U. S. ARMY, AND DR. ROBERT
FLETCHER, M. R. C. S., ENGLAND. New
York: F. Leypoldt, 37 Park Row.

The Index Medicus will record the titles of all new publications in Medicine, Surgery, and the collateral branches, received during the preceding month. These will be classed under subject headings, and will be followed by the titles of valuable original articles upon the same subject, found, during the like period, in medical journals and transactions of medical societies. The periodicals thus indexed will comprise all current medical journals and transactions of value, so far as they can be obtained. At the close of each yearly volume a double index of authors and subjects will be added, forming a complete bibliography of medicine for the preceding year. The subscription price is three dollars a year, commencing with January.

HOMOGOPATHIC THERAPEUTICS, BY S. LILIEN-THAL, M. D. Boericke & Tafel, 1878.

Jahr's Clinical Guide is the skeleton which the author has clothed with the experience of the best men in our school, so far as published. While the work lays no claim to originality, it is one of the most useful and satisfactory volumes issued from the homœopathic press for many years. It places in our hands a clue, which the intelligent student will find no difficulty in following, to the riches of our Materia Medica. Standing by itself, it is of but little value; but as a help to the thoroughly educated and trained mind, its usefulness can hardly be estimated.

HEALTH AND HOW TO PROMOTE IT; BY RICHARD McSherry, M.D., Prof. of Practice of Medicine, University of Maryland; New York, D. Appleton & Co.

This little work is addressed to the general reader, and contains an immense amount of practical information on what individuals may do for themselves, or the heads of families for their households. It is free from scientific technicalities, and the language is such as an intelligent physician would use in talking with his patients.

A PRACTICAL MANUAL OF THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN, WITH A FORMULARY; BY EDWARD ELLIS, M. D. William Wood & Co., 1879. This work is the second volume of Wood's

Library of Standard Medical Authors. author's aim to condense a large amount of information into a small space has been tolerably successful. The general description of disease is good, and occasionally an excellent idea can be gleaned from the treatment.

CLINICAL BLANKS; BY BUSHROD W. JAMES, M.D. Published by Boericke & Tafel, Philadelphia and New York.

These blanks are so simple and concise in their arrangement that even the most active physician will have no excuse for not recording his more important cases.

ETC., CHICAGO.

Part VI, (vol. II, No. 1,) containing Natrum carb., Platina, Spigelia, Stram., Asaf., Camph.,

Cicuta, Drosera, Ipecac., Ledum, Nux m., Ruta, Spong., Amm. carb., Chelid., and part of Graphites.

What we have already said of the former issues of this work, we can reiterate in respect

The author certainly deserves the thanks of the profession for his faithfulness and enter-

DISEASES OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN, WITH THEIR HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT. EDITED BY T. C. DUNCAN, M.D., ETC. DUNCAN BROTHERS,

Part III concluding vol. 1 of this eminently practical and excellent text-book, with "preface, contents of vol. I," and complete "index," is before us, making 478 pp.

The author has made such a concise compilation, that his work must be adopted as the hand-book of our school, and we trust no homœopathic physician will allow himself to be without it.

AM. HOM. OPHTHALMOLOGICAL AND OTOLOGI-CAL SOCIETY, TRANS. FOR 1878, pp. 73, RE-PRINTED FROM THE CINCINNATI ADVANCE.

Contains the annual address of the President, Dr. T. P. Wilson, and several papers of note in these specialties.

INDEX of Original Communications in the Medical Journals of the U.S. and Canada, for 1877, classified by subjects and authors. New York. Compiled by Wm. D. Chapin.

# Reports of Societies.

## HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Proceedings of the Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting, held in Albany February 11-12, 1879.

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting was held in the Supervisors' Hall, Albany, commencing at 10 A.M., Feb. 11, 1879, the President, Dr. William Gulick, being in the chair.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. CLINICAL THERAPEUTICS, BY T. S. HOYNE, M.D., J. C. Russum, Pastor of Central Avenue M. E. Church, Albany.

The President then said:

Mr. Secretary and Gentlemen: This attempt

is made in the line of duty imposed upon whomsoever receives the honorable distinction of President of this Society.

Again we meet to consult in relation to professional and practical matters, and the promotion of humane and philanthropic measures. Physicians throughout the world are united and animated by one and the same desire. Their efforts are made to accomplish the single purpose of relieving human suffering.

With a history coeval with that of the human race, perhaps no student familiar with it has failed to notice that very numerous discordant and contradictory medical "theories have flashed into existence, sparkled a brief life and died away." Notwithstanding which there has been a growth by the discovery and aggregation of facts sufficient to constitute a true medical science.

Yet ought we to be modest in asserting with confidence the permanence and stability of theories which now appear to be established, for judging by the past, who can say that future searchings will not discover and bring to light truths that shall absorb much of our present greatness?

"We are fully of the opinion that truth never suffers by discussion." "Although," says the able author of "Essays on the Formation and Publication of Opinions," "we have no absolute test of truth, yet we have faculties to discern it, and it is only by the unrestrained exercise of those faculties that we can hope to attain correct opinions. The way to attain this result is to permit all to be said on a subject that can be said. All error is the consequence of narrow and partial views, and can be removed only by having a question presented in all its possible bearings, or, in other words, by unlimited discussion. Where there is a perfect freedom of examination, there is the greatest probability which it is possible to have that the truth will be ultimately attained. To impose the least restraint is to diminish this probability; it is to declare that we will not take into consideration all the possible arguments which can be presented, but that we will form our opinions on partial views. It is therefore to increase the probability of error.

Nor need we, under the utmost freedom of discussion, be in any fear of an inundation of crude and preposterous speculations.

All such will meet with a proper and effectual check in the neglect or ridicule of the public; none will have much influence but those which possess the plausibility bestowed by a considerable admixture of truth, and which it is of importance should appear, that amid the contention of controversy, what is true may be separated from what is false."

M. Bernard asserts that "Everything in nature is the absolute and certain result of fixed and definite causes. Alter these in any way, even to the least degree, and the results vary accordingly and in a fixed and certain proportion. She knows no medium; she knows nothing but a unit; and this unit is a combination of facts varying in each, and the originating results varying correspondingly. Experimentation, therefore, and the accumulation of facts can alone furnish us with the key to her enigmas, and each fact is valuable just in proportion as all its conditions are accurately ascertained, and in that proportion only; and in collecting these facts we should be careful not to allow 'preconceived ideas' to become 'fixed ideas.'

The former are necessary, indispensable; we can do nothing without them; we should only know how to abandon them when they are nolonger right.

The preconceived idea is always interrogative; it addresses the question to nature and calmly awaits the answer; ceasing to question when this is received, and adopting the fact. with the same readiness, whether opposed to or in accordance with itself."

Referring again to history, we notice that the germ of Homeopathy was seen by Hippocrates and afterward by other ancient famous explorers in the field of medicine, dormant until the time of Hahnemann, when it disclosed itself within the domain of the profession, was kindly greeted and permitted to grow, until it was decreed that the doctrines it developed were revolutionary and absurd, when the whole sect united and obtained the aid of civil authority "to oppose and if possible to crush the monstrous heresy."

Previous to his time nothing had been learnt of the pathogenetic properties of medicaments, and consequently there existed no knowledge which would enable a physician to select the remedy most suitable to each case.

"He created an entirely new science, the sci-

ence of Pathogenetics, which, based on experiments, should discover and teach what are the treat. sufferings and pathological alterations which each agent singly administered has power to generate in the healthy."

In other words, "To acquire such a complete, accurate and intimate acquaintance with every medicamental substance, with all its properties and powers, so far as they influence the health of man, as to enable the physician to apply those properties to the cure of disease," in conformity with the therapeutic law, similia similibus curantur, "a certain and clear rule of practice."

"This is the stone the builders rejected." But in 1846, after forty-one years of cultivation and practical application, Dr. Forbes, editor of the British and Foreign Medical Review, and opposed to Homeopathy, published the following, to wit: "No doctrine, however ingenious, not based on positive demonstrable facts, will any more be regarded but as a piece of poetical speculation, which may indeed amuse the fancy. but can never influence the conduct of scientific men, much less of practical physicians.

But Homeopathy comes before us in a much more imposing aspect, and claims our attention on grounds which cannot be gainsaid.

It presents itself as a new art of medicine\* \* and it comes before us now not in the garb of a suppliant unknown and helpless but as a conqueror, powerful, famous and triumphant.

The disciples of Hahnemann are spread over the whole civilized world."

And now, twenty-three years since this acknowledgment was made public, the Scientific American publishes the following.

EFFECTS OF MEDICINE IN SMALL DOSES,

Read before the Section on the Practice of Medicine, American Medical Association.

By John Morris, M.D. of Baltimore, Md.

WE have been for years gradually lessening the doses of medicine that we administer to our patients. A lesson has been furnished us by homeopathy, however irrational it may be, as far as the matter of giving less medicine is concerned, and many of us who have studied the effects of remedies in different doses have discovered that very small quantities will produce very striking results. The experiment of giving small doses can be safely tried in nearly all tion of small doses frequently repeated.

the cases of disease which we are called on to

Before proceeding to discuss individual remedies, we beg to state that we entirely agree with Sir Edward Blaine, in the opinion that remedies are relative agents, and that their virtues cannot be fairly essayed or beneficially ascertained by trying their effects on sound subjects, and that morbid conditions are actually necessary to test their true value.

Arsenic, aconite, belladonna and iodide of potassium are also remedies the action of which we would be glad to discuss, but the limits we have marked out for this paper preclude our doing so at this time. Without attempting, however, an analysis of their particular qualities, we venture the opinion that their true physiological effect can only be obtained by the administration of very moderate or even minute doses.

Before concluding, it may not be out of place to state that the action of many remedies is greatly modified or increased by combination with other agents. When we find combinations in nature producing remedial or curative effects, the elements entering into them are always small in quantity. What more agreeable or effectual remedies have we than the natural waters found in the springs in different parts of the world? And yet how small a quantity of the various salts is discovered in these waters by analysis. The same may be said of sea air, than which no more potent influence can be named. Would it not be well for us to take a lesson from nature in this as in many other matters?

Trituration, too, may be mentioned as a means to increase the power of medicine. This is a means very little understood. There are many other combinations modifying the action of medicinal agents, but they are no doubt familiar to you all. Our only purpose at this time is to call the notice of the profession to the efficacy of small doses of certain unmistakable remedies in daily use, and to invoke a greater watchfulness in the administration of drugs, as well as closer attention to their effects when given in large or small quantities.

#### DEDUCTIONS.

1. That the true physiological effects of remedies may best be obtained by the administra2. That medicines thus given are accumulative in their operation.

That the effect of remedies is greatly increased by combination, the manner of preparation, the time and mode of administration, etc.

4. That large doses of medicine frequently act as irritants; that they produce an abnormal state of the blood, as is evidenced by such conditions as narcotism, alcoholism, iodism, ergotism, bromidism, etc.

That more special attention should be given at the bedside to the influence of remedial agents, to the end that a greater certainty may

be exercised in their prescription,

The American Medical Association, is a national organization and the highest old school

authority in the United States.

Furthermore, members of our own school testify of their own knowledge that Old School physicians adopt Homœopathy without an open acknowledgment and without loss of place in their association.

This testimony could be greatly multiplied—But there can no longer remain a doubt, that the old school is studying the science of pathogenetics, nor that belief in the principles evolved will progressively obtain more and more concurrence and adoption, indicating an advancement which will unite the whole medical profession in one harmonious phalanx whose heroic deeds of phylanthropy may win the approving smile of Heaven.

After delivery of the President's address, the following Committees were appointed:

Auditing—E. Hasbrouck and H. L. Waldo. Credentials — E. Hasbrouck and Thomas Wildes.

Invitations—H. M. Paine, H. L. Waldo, and E. S. Coburn.

President's Address—Doane, Osborne and Holden.

The Secretary, Alfred K. Hills, M. D., then read the minutes of the last annual and semi-annual meetings, which were approved after correction offered by H. M. Paine, as follows: By striking out the word "similar," which occurs in the minutes in his report of a case of "cancer in the stomach," when Dr. Conant said that "Dr. H. M. Paine's case of cancerous disease recalled a "similar" case diagnosticated by eminent allopaths as cancer, but pronounced by myself and Dr. Mitchell of Newburgh, who

was summoned as counsel to be "round stomach ulcer." This, Dr. Paine claimed, did him an injustice, for the reason that his case was one reported from a post mortem examination, and as the one recalled by Dr. Connant had received no such examination, therefore they had no right to call it a "similar case."

The Treasurer, Dr. E. S. Coburn, then read his report as follows:

TROY, N. Y. Feb, 11, 1879.

E. S. Coburn, Treasurer, in account with the Homeopathic Medical Society of the State of New York.

Dr. SCOTTARIKON
To Balance in Treasury
" Cash from Permanent Members 302,00
" Cash from County Societies:310,00
" Cash from Sale of Books
Totals\$1,040.12
demonstratil and amon Cr. I sory near rol hoten
By Insurance \$5.00
" Janitor 10.00
" Stenographer 30.00
" Weed Parsons & Co 5,25
" Volume of 1875 for the Hospital 1,50
" VanBenthuysen & Sons, printing
volume for 1878
" Wrapping Paper 4.63
" Postage, Telegraph and Exchange 75,91
" Printing, Express and Advertising . 47,50
" Binding 30 Vols, of 1876-77 12.00
" Secr'y Waldo's Bill 6.02
" Stationery
" Recording Secr'y's Salary 250.00
" Recording Secr'y's bill for Printing,
Postage and Stationery
" Collecting 12,40
MALLE Dienker, Dec Dome Tony and Union
Total\$946.22
Balance in Treasury
Assets due from permanent members
and County Societies \$690.00
Transactions acet
Vols, sold during the year267
Vols. on hand. 1863, 96; 1864, 121; 1865, 80;

Upon motion the report of the Treasurer was

1866, 90; 1867, 92; 1868, 102; 1869, 116; 1870,

277; 1871, 634; 1872, 520; 1873-4, 318; 1875,

none, 1876-7, 165; 1878, 280. Total 2,891.

received and referred to the Auditing Com.

The Committee on Invitations introduced Dr. Wm. B. Chamberlain of Worcester, Mass., and Dr. D. B. Whittier of Fitchburg, Mass., and they were cordially invited to seats in the convention and to participate in the proceedings.

Upon motion of H. M. Paine the following committee was appointed to invite the Legislature now in session, to attend this meeting, Drs. H. M. Paine, H. L. Waldo and E. S. Coburn.

#### NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS.

Dr. Couch nominated Dr. Cornelius Ormes of Chautauqua for President. The name of Dr. A. R. Wright being mentioned for nomination, Dr. E. S. Coburn read a letter from Dr. Wright declining the honor. Dr. H. M. Paine nominated Dr. Wm. C. Doane of Syracuse, for President. Dr. Alfred K. Hills was then nominated for first vice President. Dr. Hasbrouck of Brooklyn, was nominated for second vice President, Drs. J. J. Mitchell and A. P. Hollett for third vice President, Dr. Alfred K. Hills nominated Dr. H. L. Waldo for Recording Secr'y. Drs. Hasbrouck of Brooklyn, and C. E. Jones of Albany, were nominated for Corresponding Secr'y. Dr. E. S. Coburn of Troy, was nominated for Treasurer.

Dr. Jones introduced Dr. William Von Gottschalk of Providence, R. I., who was welcomed by the President and invited to a seat in the convention.

#### NOMINATIONS OF CENSORS.

Northern District, Drs. Brown, Little and Clark.

Southern District, Drs. Hasbrouck, Demarest and Talcott.

Middle District, Drs. Doane, Terry and Hawley.

Western District, Drs. W. B. Kenyon, Sumner and Osborne.

The Auditing Committee made the following report:

We have examined the accounts of the Treasurer and find them correct. We find a bill of \$45.00 for copying and proof reading on Vol. XIV, Trans., the payment of which we would recommend.

Upon motion the report was accepted and the Treasurer authorized to pay the amount of the above claim, REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

Present Drs. L. M. Pratt, H. Switz, G. H. Billings, E. D. Jones, H. L. Waldo, N. Hunting, J. N. Bradley, J. F. McKown, C. E. Goewey, H. M. Paine, C. E. Jones, G. A. Goewey, T. L. Brown, Henry Learned, A. S. Couch, S. H. Carroll, P. W. Mull, W. H. Barnes, C. B. Cook, Anna C. Howland, N. Osborne, W. B. Kenyon, E. Hasbrouck, Helen C. Lassen, A. B. Carr, C. B. Walrad, R. S. Bishop, F. S. Bradford, J. W. Dowling, Alfred K. Hills, E. Carleton Jr., Thomas Wildes, H. Amelia Wright, Mrs. J. G. Brinkman, J. P. Ermentraut, W. H. Watson, M. M. Gardner, M. O. Terry, W. C. Doane, Geo. Allen, N. B. Covert, J. J. Mitchell, S. H. Talcott, W. M. Butler, M. L. Dowdell, C. G. Clark, E. S. Coburn, A. J. Frantz, Wm. Gulick, John Turner, A. W. Holden, L. A. Clark, C. M. Mosher, L. Faust, Geo. M. Powell, Theo. Millspaugh, Mrs. Garrison-Pomeroy, R. A. Adams, Geo. E. Gorham, Mrs. H. V. Chapin, all of New York, and as delegates. President Wm. Von Gottschalk of Providence, R. I. President D. B. Whittier, Fitchburgh, Mass., and W. B. Chamberlain of Worcester, Mass., as delegates from the Massachusetts Society.

The following telegram was received.—To the President of the New York State Homeopathic Medical Society, in session at Albany. Last Wednesday, the Board of the Rhode Island Homeopathic Medical Society appointed President Gottschalk, a delegate to your meeting. George B. Peck, Jr., the Secretary.

Upon motion, the courtesies of the Society were extended to President Gottschalk.

Dr. Coburn offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved that the salary of the Recording Secretary be \$250, per year, which sum is to include all expenses, except stenographer, stationary, printing, postage and express.

Dr. Coburn said at this point, I have a matter to bring up in the form of a communication from Dr. H. K. Bennett of Fitchburg, Mass., in which he encloses five dollars and asks that this amount be accepted as payment for his dues which are twelve dollars. He has been out of the State for four years, and in the year 1874 he paid his last dues.

Upon motion of Dr. Jones the matter was referred to a Committee consisting of Drs.

Jones and Holden to report the facts in the

NOMINATIONS OF HONORARY MEMBERS.

Dr. H. M. Paine nominated Dr. Edward A. Guilbert of Dubuque, Iowa; Dr. Alfred K. Hills nominated Dr. Henry N. Guernsey of Philadel-

NOMINATIONS OF FERMANENT MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED NEXT YEAR.

First District-Warren Freeman, M.D., William Scherzer, M. D.

Second District-H. M. Lewis, M.D., S. E. Stiles, M.D., and John J. Mitchel, M.D.

Third District-W. H. Vanderzee, M. D., Catherine E. Cocwey, M.D.

Fifth District-N. H. Haviland, M.D.

ELECTION OF PERMANENT MEMBERS NOMINATED AT LAST ANNUAL MEETING.

Upon motion Dr. Hasbrouck was empowered to east the ballot of the Society for each of the following nominees who were unanimously elected.

First District-C. A. Bacon, M.D., W. I. Wellman, M.D.

Second District-C. S. Bonnell, M.D., S. W. Flagg, M.D.

Third District-W. E. Millbank, M.D., H. L. Waldo, M.D.

Fourth District-L. A. Clark, M.D., W. E. Storms, M.D.

Fifth District-E. W. Rogers, M.D.

Sixth District-G. H. Greely, M.D., J. B. Vork, M.D.

Upon motion, Dr. T. D. Williams, of Chicago, was elected corresponding member.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE REGENTS DEGREE,

Dr. A. W. Holden, Glens Falls.

Dr. A. S. Couch, of Fredonia.

Dr. L. M. Pratt, of Albany.

Dr. Edward Bayard, New York.

Report of Committee to visit Institutions, Dr. Alfred K. Hills, chairman, called on representatives of various institutions, who responded as follows: Dr. Ermentraut, of Tompkins Square Dispensary, reports 11,950 persons treated, to 34,722 prescriptions during the year. Mortality very small. Dr. H. Amelia Wright, 4,303 patients treated at Dispensary of the very happily. Bread and Beef House last year, with good re-

for Women, reported progress for that institution. Dr. Dowling, Dean of N. Y. Homœopathic Med. College, said: "Our College was never in so prosperous a condition as at the present time; never has such perfect harmony existed in the faculty as at present. We believe we are doing our duty. You will have our annual report in which you can gain all the information you desire. In addition to the regular chairs, we have this year largely increased the number of Cliniques, and have ample material from the hospital and dispensary. Perfect satisfaction apparently, has been given to the students, and to those who send them here." Dr. Howland, of Poughkeepsie, said their Dispensary had been abandoned on account of bankruptcy. Dr. Wildes, of New York, reports twelve physicians on the staff of the College Dispensary, all doing good service. Dr. Dowling said: "Obstetrical cases are given to the class, with one of the older members with them. Students in classes of nine (9) are permitted to make uterine examinations in presence of the Professor." Dr. Von Gottschalk, of Providence, R. I., made the following remarks: "We have had, in Providence, a dispensary for the last seven years. For four years back we have changed the system of attendance at the dispensary; there are in attendance two physicians every day; nobody that applies is asked, whether they are able to pay or not. Patients can select their own physicians for their attendance, and to any that are not able to pay, the same privilege is extended. We ought to give to the poor just as much chance as we do to the rich, We have reached that class of the poor that really ought to get the free charge of the physician attending them. It is a little remarkable in our dispensary that about three-fourths of all the patients are Americans; those from foreign countries, the Irish, Dutch, &c., preferring the large doses of the allopathic school; they think they must be well physicked, or there is no cure. I think the experience we have had ought to be extended. We have no support either from the city or state, but we organized a ladies association, and every lady who pays a dollar a year becomes a member; this is the only source of support we have, and it supports the dispensary

Dr. Carr, of Rochester, reported that good sults. Dr. Carleton, of the New York College work was being done by the Dispensary in his

city, and we have one physician present all day except Sundays. Dr. L. M. Pratt, for the Albany Hospital, said the present condition financially was very prosperous. We have no free patients except those we get from the city. Our accommodations are for about forty beds. We have had several very important surgical cases and about one hundred and twenty obstetrical cases. In the hospital we have a staff of physicians who are governed by a board of eleven trustees. The hospital has now about fourteen or fifteen patients. The friends of homeopathy in the city and vicinity have responded nobly and liberally to our appeals for donations to our dispensary and hospital. will get from the city as a fund to run the institution \$2,500.00 We are free from debt. Our building is located at No. 123 North Pearl Street, and we invite you all to visit us at our hospital, where we shall be only too well pleased to extend most cordial greetings. We invite the members of the profession to aid us in sending their patients here. We can receive them at the moderate sum of from \$5 to \$12 per week. We have to keep ten charity patients all the time.

SELECTION OF PLACE FOR HOLDING NEXT SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

New York city, Buffalo, Binghampton, and Syracuse, were all proposed, and upon motion it was made a special order for this evening.

(To be continued.)

NUTRITION,-There are numerous cases in every physician's practice where ordinary medications fail entirely to produce beneficial results. The patient wants nutrition in some of its varied forms, which the system, in its weakened condition, refuses to take up from ordinary food. It is just here that chemistry comes to our aid with its nutrition for blood and nerves, so prepared that it flows readily into the vital currents, increasing their strength, building up the waning powers of life, and enabling it to throw off disease, Reed & Carnrick have recently introduced to the profession in the form of Maltine, the nutritive properties of wheat, oats and malt. This preparation, containing simply the nutritive portion of the cereals, is combined with various blood and nerve nutritives and tonics in such a way that the whole is easily appropriated. In the hands of the intelligent phy- it to the profession.

sician, these beautiful combinations of the chemist, give him a power which he could not otherwise obtain, and makes much of his work comparatively easy.

BUREAU OF MATERIA MEDICA PHARMACY, AND PROVINGS; IN THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMEOPATHY.

Special subjects to be reported upon and discussed at the next meeting:

Drug attenuation in homeopathic therapeutics.

1. History of drug attenuation in homeopathic practice up to the death of Hahnemann, with a statement of its objects and methods.

2. History of drug attenuation in homœopathic practice since the time of Hahnemann, with a statement of its objects and methods, with especial reference to variations from those approved by Habnemann.

3. The means employed in drug attenuation what they should be, and the dangers of im-

purity.

- 4. The limits of drug attenuation; or proofs of drug presence in attenuations above the third decimal, from the stand-point of the Scientist.
- 5. The limits of drug attenuation, or proofs of the presence of medicinal power in attenuations above the sixth decimal-from the stand-point of the Therapeutist.

Items of information bearing upon any part of the subject selected by the Bureau, sent by members of the profession, will be thankfully received and properly considered,

J. P. DAKE, Chairman,

Nashville, Tenn.

THE GELATINE CAPSULES of Messrs H. Planten & Son have received the endorsement of the medical profession besides the "Centennial award" for "excellence in manufacture."

THE ABSORBENT COTTON of Messrs, Hance Bros., & White, is a most valuable desiccant, and entirely meets the wants of the profession as a dressing for wounds, sloughs, injured surfaces, etc. It is much superior to raw cotton and lints, being free from impurities, less irritating, and absorbing readily all secretions, thus keeping the affected parts fresh and clean. In many cases it is a cheap and efficient substitute for sponge. Having used it to our own entire satisfaction, we take pleasure in recommending

